

13 February 1974

To: GLC

OMB has requested our comments to proposed reports by Justice and State on the Church bill, which makes it illegal for private funds to be accepted or solicited by the Government to influence foreign elections.

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Suggest our report follow the line of attached draft for your review prior to coordination with OGC, DDO, and [REDACTED], Compt.

PLC

DRAFT:PLC:cg (12 Feb 74)

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Director, Office of Management and Budget
Assistant Director for Legislative Reference

Attention: Mr. James F. C. Hyde, Jr.

Dear Mr. Hyde:

This is in reply to your memorandum dated January 31, 1974, requesting the views of the Central Intelligence Agency on the proposed reports of the Departments of Justice and State on S. 2239, a bill "Relating to intervening in and influencing the political affairs of foreign countries or political subdivisions thereof."

Since S. 2239 resulted from circumstances involving this Agency, we confirm our testimony during hearings on the bill that CIA has never accepted or solicited private funds to finance any of the activities proscribed under the bill.

The Agency defers to the National Security Council and the Department of State to comment on the effects of the bill upon national policy. We make no other comment except to raise the same question raised by State, i. e., whether the bill is so broad that it would preclude private contributions to U. S. information programs abroad which by affecting public opinion could indirectly influence foreign elections.

Sincerely,

George L. Cary
Legislative Counsel

DRAFT:PLC:cg (11 Feb 74)

Director, Office of Management and Budget
Assistant Director for Legislative References

Attention: Mr. James F. C. Hyde, Jr.

Dear Mr. Hyde:

This is in reply to your memorandum dated January 31, 1974, requesting the views of the Central Intelligence Agency on the Departments' of Justice and State proposed reports on S. 2239, a bill "relating to intervening in and influencing the political affairs of foreign countries or political subdivisions thereof."

Since S. 2239 resulted from circumstances involving this Agency, we confirm that CIA has never accepted or solicited private funds to finance or in any way support activities proscribed under the bill.

We offer no views on the bill except to support State's comment that the bill is so broad in coverage that it would preclude private contributions to U. S. information programs abroad which may be considered as indirectly influencing foreign elections.

Sincerely,

George L. Cary
Legislative Counsel